

position on a top surface of the grating sheet in order to secure the grating sheet to the structural members so as to prevent displacement of the grating sheet from the structural members by extreme wave action;

wherein said apparatus is formed of corrosion resistant material and is able to withstand the forces of waves in a wave-zone portion of an offshore platform area.

15. (Twice Amended) A fastening system for securing grating sheets having longitudinal edges comprised of parallel and transverse bars forming a pattern of openings to structural members of an offshore platform or other similar platform comprising:

elongated generally L-shaped connectors for fastening the longitudinal edges of grating sheets to structural members in a wave zone area of the platform;

plate fasteners including a top plate for mounting on an upper surface of the grating sheets, a bottom plate for attaching to the structural members in a laterally extending direction for supporting the grating sheets and a threaded member extending between the top and bottom plates and through an opening in the top plate for engagement with a threaded nut for clamping the top and bottom plates together from a position on a top surface of the grating sheet in order to secure the grating sheets to the structural members in a wave zone area of the platform;

whereby the elongated L-shaped connectors together with the plate fasteners provide fastening support for the grating sheets so as to resist vertical and horizontal wave pressures when secured to the supporting members;

wherein said system is formed of corrosion resistant material and is able to withstand the forces of waves in a wave-zone portion of an offshore platform.

REMARKS

This replacement amendment is being filed in response to the Notice of Non-Compliance mailed April, 5, 2001. In the communication the Examiner stated that the reply filed on January 3, 2001 was not fully responsive because the amendments to the claims were not made in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out this omission.